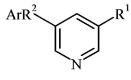
Amendments to the Claims

1. (Withdrawn) A method for treating pain or anxiety in a patient which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound of formula 1:



(1)

wherein

Ar is phenyl or napthyl each of which may be substituted by one or more C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_5 acyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, C_1-C_5 acylamino, C_1-C_4 alkylsulfonylamino, mono-, di- or trifluorinated C_1-C_3 alkyl, substituents which may be the same or different and may bear a $CONH_2$, $CONHCH_3$, $CON(CH_3)_2$, CO_2H, CO_2CH_3, OCF_3, $CH_2NHCOCH_3$, CH_2NH_2, $CH_2N(CH_3)_2$, CH_2CN, CH_2OH, $CH_2NHSO_2CH_3$, $CH_2N(CH_3)(CH_2)_2CN$, $CH_2N(CH_3)CH(CH_3)_2$, $CH_2NHCH(CH_3)_2$, $CH_2NH(CH_2)_2CH_3$, $CH_2NHCO_2R^4$, $CH_2NHCH_2CH_3$, CH_2NHCH_3, $NHCOC(CH_3)_2$, or $N(S(O)_2CH_3)_2$ substituent;

R^1 is hydrogen, halo, R^4, CN, $C(NOH)R^3$, $C(NO\text{-}R^4)R^3$, $(CH)_2CO_2R^4$, $(CH_2)_n OR^3$, COR^3, CF_3, SR^4, $S(O)R^4$, $S(O)_2R^4$, $COCH_2CO_2R^3$, $NHSO_2R^4$, $NHCOR^3$, $C(NOR^3)NH_2$, CH_2OCOR^3, $(CH_2)_n NH_2$, $CON(CH_3)_2$, $(CH_2)_nNHCO_2R^4$, CO_2R^3, $CONH_2$, $CSNH_2$, $C(NH)NHOR^3$, $(CH_2)_nN(CH_3)_2$, or $CONHNHCOR^3$;

R^2 is 1,2-ethenediyl or 1,2-ethynediyl;

R^3 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R^4 is C_1-C_4 alkyl; and

n is 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or an N-oxide thereof.

2. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein

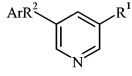
Ar is phenyl or napthyl each of which may be substituted by C_1-C_4alkyl, C_1-C_4alkoxy, C_1-C_5acyl, halo, amino, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, C_1-C_5 acylamino, C_1-C_4 alkylsulfonylamino or mono-, di- or trifluorinated C_1-C_3 alkyl; and

R^1 is hydrogen, halo, R^4, CN, $C(NOH)R^3$, $C(NOR^4)R^3$, $(CH)_2CO_2$-R^4, OR^3, COR^3 or CF_3.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein the patient is a human.

5. (Currently amended) A compound of formula 1:



(1)

wherein

Ar is 2-chlorophenyl, 3-chlorophenyl, 2-fluorophenyl, 3-fluorophenyl, 4-fluorophenyl, 3,4-dimethylphenyl, 3,5-dimethylphenyl, 2,4-dimethylphenyl, 2,5-dimethylphenyl, 2-cyanophenyl, 3-cyanophenyl, ~~4-cyanophenyl~~, 2-methoxyphenyl, 3-methoxyphenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 2-methylphenyl, 3-methylphenyl, 4-methylphenyl, 3,4-difluorophenyl, 3,5-difluorophenyl, 3,4,5-trifluorophenyl, 3-bromophenyl, 3-nitrophenyl, 3-trifluoromethylphenyl, 3-aminophenyl, 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl, 3-hydroxyphenyl, 3-acetylphenyl, 5-chloro-2-methoxyphenyl, 3-chloro-4-methoxyphenyl, 3-hydroxy-4-fluorophenyl, 3-methoxy-4-fluorophenyl, 3-ethoxy-4-fluorophenyl, 3-isopropoxy-4-fluorophenyl, 3-isopropylphenyl, 3-ethylphenyl, 3-methyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-trifluoromethyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-cyano-4-fluorophenyl, 3-amino-4-fluorophenyl, 3-trifluoromethyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-chloro-4-fluorophenyl, 3-nitro-4-fluorophenyl, 3-aminocarbonyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-N-methylaminocarbonyl-4-fluorophenyl,

3-N,N-dimethylaminocarbonyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-carboxyl-4-fluorophenyl,
3-methoxycarbonyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-acetylaminomethyl-4-fluorophenyl,
3-methysulfonylaminomethyl-4-fluorophenyl,
3-pivaloylaminomethyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-trifluoromethoxyphenyl,
3-aminomethyl-4-fluorophenyl, 3-dimethylaminomethyl-4-fluorophenyl,
3-cyanomethyl-4-fluorophenyl, 4-fluoro-3-hydroxymethylphenyl,
3-{[(2-cyanoethyl)-methylamino]-methyl}-4-fluorophenyl,
4-fluoro-3-[(isopropylmethylamino)-methyl]phenyl,
4-fluoro-3-isopropylaminomethylphenyl, 4-fluoro-3-propylaminomethylphenyl,
3-ethylaminomethyl-4-fluorophenyl, 4-fluoro-3-methyl aminomethylphenyl, or
3-isobutyrylamino-4-fluorophenyl;

R^1 is halo, R^4, CN, $C(NOH)R^3$, $C(NO\text{-}R^4)R^3$, $(CH)_2CO_2R^4$, $(CH_2)_n OR^3$, COR^3, CF_3, SR^4, $S(O)R^4$, $S(O)_2R^4$, $COCH_2CO_2R^3$, $NHSO_2R^4$, $NHCOR^3$, $C(NOR^3)NH_2$, CH_2OCOR^3, $(CH_2)_n NH_2$, $CON(CH_3)_2$, $(CH_2)_nNHCO_2R^4$, CO_2R^3, $CONH_2$, $CSNH_2$, $C(NH)NHOR^3$, $(CH_2)_nN(CH_3)_2$, or $CONHNHCOR^3$;

R^2 is 1,2-ethynediyl;

R^3 is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl;

R^4 is C_1-C_4 alkyl; and

n is 0 or 1;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or an N-oxide thereof~~; provided when Ar is 4-cyanophenyl, R^1 is a value other than CN~~.

6 – 9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 5 wherein R^1 is bromo, iodo, fluoro, chloro, $C(NOH)R^3$, $C(NO\text{-}R^4)R^3$, methyl, CN, $CH_2CO_2R^4$, $(CH_2)_nOR^3$, COR^3, CF_3, SR^4, $S(O)R^4$, $S(O)_2R^4$, $COCH_2CO_2R^3$, $NHS(O)_2R^3$, $NHCOR^3$, $CH_2OC(O)R^3$, $(CH_2)_nNH_2$, $CON(CH_3)_2$, $(CH_2)_nNHCO_2R^4$, CO_2R^3, $CONH_2$, $CSNH_2$, $C(NH)NHOR^3$, $(CH_2)_nN(CH_3)_2$ or $CONHNHCOR^3$.

11. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 10 wherein R^3 is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or *t*-butyl.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 10 wherein R^1 is CN, iodo, chloro, methyl or COR^3.

14. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 10 wherein R^1 is CN.

15 – 16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 10 wherein R^3 is methyl.

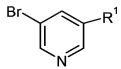
18. (Previously presented) A compound Claim 10 wherein R^3 is hydrogen.

19 – 20. (Canceled).

21. (Original) A compound of Claim 5 which is: 5-(4-Fluorophenylethynyl)-nicotinonitrile, 5-(3-Cyanophenylethynyl)-nicotinonitrile or 5-(3,4-difluorophenylethynyl)-nicotinonitrile.

22. (Previously presented) A process for preparing a compound of formula I (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) as provided in Claim 5 which comprises:

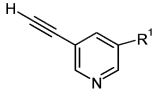
(a) for a compound of formula I in which R^2 is 1,2-ethenediyl, reacting with a compound of formula II



(II)

with a compound of formula Ar-$CHCH_2$ in a Heck coupling;

(b) for a compound of formula 1 in which R^2 is alkynyl, reacting with a compound of formula III



(III)

in a Sonogashira coupling with a compound of formula Ar-I or Ar-Br in a suitable solvent;

whereafter, for any of the above procedures, when a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of a compound of formula 1 is required, it is obtained by reacting the basic form of such a compound of formula 1 with an acid affording a physiologically acceptable counterion, or, for a compound of formula 1 which bears an acidic moiety, reacting the acidic form of such a compound of formula 1 with a base which affords a pharmaceutically acceptable cation, or by any other conventional procedure; and wherein, unless more specifically described, the value of R^1, Ar and R^2 are as defined in Claim 5.

23. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient, a compound of formula 1 (or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof) as provided in Claim 5.

24 - 25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) The compound of Claim 5 which is 5-(3-Chlorophenylethynyl)-nicotinonitrile or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.